

# Southern Highlands Academically Gifted Class

## Moss Vale Class Report

### Roger Symbol

A Local Public Public School      Year 6

#### What is this report?

This report documents student learning throughout the 2018 Southern Highlands Academically Gifted Class program. This year, the focus has been on student learning and achievement through self reflection. Reflection encourages and empowers students to develop learning independence.

#### Student led report

This report has been written by the student to help themselves, as well as others, gain insight into their learning. Student reflections have been supported through the use of learning goals. Both pre learning and post learning have been explained by the students in this report. A teacher comment is provided in support of the student's documented learning at the end of this report.

#### What is in this report?

This report is a reflection of student learning throughout the 2018 class program.

The 2018 class has covered the topics of;

1. My learning
2. Ancient Greece and essay writing
3. Mathematics
4. Heroes and movie making
5. Tournament of Minds
6. My reflection

## How do I learn?

I learn in lots of ways. For example, if I am doing art I like to practice over and over again until I am happy with it. I also like to read and go to the library because when I watch a documentary I cannot write facts down quick enough. But if I read a book I can take my time, write neatly so I can read my notes clearly. Sometimes it is actually easier to watch a video so I can see the topic I am working on. Another way I learn is to create things, an example of this is when I did my science fair I designed a pair of headphones with slots on the side to make it more comfortable for people with glasses, so people could see what I designed I created a model out of modelling clay. I learn a lot from research because if I do not understand a topic like democracy I look online.

## Pre class attitudes to learning

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| • I am curious about my learning              | <b>mostly</b> |
| • I have a desire to succeed                  | <b>always</b> |
| • I am an active participant in my learning   | <b>always</b> |
| • I am open minded when it comes to feedback  | <b>always</b> |
| • I am resilient when faced with a challenge: | <b>always</b> |
| • I am organised                              | <b>mostly</b> |
| • I have a growth mindset when learning       | <b>always</b> |

## Post class attitudes to learning

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| • I am curious about my learning              | <b>always</b> |
| • I have a desire to succeed                  | <b>always</b> |
| • I am an active participant in my learning   | <b>always</b> |
| • I am open minded when it comes to feedback  | <b>mostly</b> |
| • I am resilient when faced with a challenge: | <b>mostly</b> |
| • I am organised                              | <b>mostly</b> |
| • I have a growth mindset when learning       | <b>always</b> |

# Ancient Greece and essay writing

2018

## What am I learning?

In Ancient Greece and essay writing you will be learning about planning, constructing and editing an essay of approximately 1 000 words in length. Essay structure and persuasive devices will be learnt as part of the successful completion of this essay. The final essay will work towards responding to the statement "Ancient Greece is the birthplace of the western world." In order to answer this question, you will explore the classic and late classic periods of Ancient Greek history and culture including Athens, Sparta, democracy, Olympic games and the impact Ancient Greek philosophers, literature and mathematicians have made on modern society.

## Learning goal

I am aiming to write an essay using the correct structure that is close to 1,000 words in length which successfully argues that Ancient Greece is the birthplace of the Western World. Using the topics Democracy, the Olympics and famous Ancient Greeks, I hope to persuade the reader towards my argument of a civilisation that is complex but unique. I will challenge myself to apply persuasive words, improve my own knowledge and acquire the skills to make my writing as convincing as possible. By presenting more qualified facts, a definition attached to any quotes and relative examples, my essay will not only demonstrate my arguments, it will also inform the reader. I am determined to complete and submit my essay by the 10 April 2018.

## Reflection

I reached the criteria I set out in my learning goal objectives at the commencement of this class. I learned to apply time frames, comply with set style guides, determine the components of an essay structure and to study a foreign topic to me of Ancient Greek civilisation. This was aided by building a series of smaller, reachable goals into larger goals over the time period. With guidance and moral support from my teacher and my mother, I was driven to push past my fears and insecurities. Without this backing, I feel that I would have failed, been anxious and distressed. Having extra resources and time in class was helpful too. Not only were my peer reviews confusing and without explanation, information relating to the essay could be difficult to find and decipher. Also, juggling other tasks set by my home teacher and trying to ignore the desire to do something else, I sometimes felt overwhelmed and tired. If I can develop a better understanding of written English, I will be able to extend myself to construct longer sentences, be specific, persuasive and present better arguments with convincing evidence. When I was presented this task, I did not feel capable or equipped with the skills needed to do so. I pleasantly surprised myself, am proud of my accomplishment, my new-found skills and am determined that next time I can attempt this task with less support.

## What am I learning?

The majority of your mathematics learning will be in the areas of number and patterns and algebra. You will be working with order of operations, mathematical law and the four operations to build confidence with numbers. Further exploration of negative numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages as well as patterns and functions to work towards introductory basic algebra.

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## Learning goal

I aim to learn what decimals are and do, how to perform divisions and to make these tasks more natural, less confusing and fun. I can manage multiplication, fractions, subtraction, addition and order of operations because I find these easier to do than some other strategies. Decimals are really difficult until I can understand the rules associated with their functions. At this stage, they are complicated and an area of maths, with the exception of money, that I have nearly no knowledge of. Although my multiplications skills are excellent, by figuring out division and decimals functions, my overall mathematical abilities should improve greatly. I will improve by asking my teacher to explain it to me again, learning more strategies and practice, practice, practice.

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## Reflection

In Mathematics, not only did I learned how to perform algebra, multiply and divide fractions plus order of operations but also where it is useful in everyday life. This was achieved by learning and applying the rules and tricks to find the answers of the set questions. I also studied to overcome areas I faced my greatest difficulties in. For example, I felt confused and fearful when asked to complete a long division sample and unsure of how to go about this task. But in this instance, the process was explained very well by my teacher and with a lot of repetition and the easy method in which it was set out, I understood what was expected. Sometimes in my haste, I did not read the question properly. By slowing down and re-reading it, I comprehended better. The most important factor that challenged my success is my belief in my abilities to solve mathematical questions. This subject does not come easily to me and I depend on knowing hints and practice, practice, practice. Sometimes I rely on being shown the methods several times from more than one person before I grasp the concept. More focus in my future effort relies on my ability to believe that I can eventually solve the mathematical problem and knowing how or where to obtain help in working out the answer.

# Heroes and movie making

2018

## What am I learning?

In Heroes and movie making, you will be identifying and evaluating the attributes of a hero. Working in a team you will be using these attributes to create an original narrative about an act that leads to failure but is still admired or seen as heroic. This will be presented in the form a 5 minute movie which must include an Ancient Greek element within it.

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## Learning goal

My aim to successfully achieve this topic would be to gain the skills for making movies from an idea to a finished product with my team. As a willing participant who is prepared to make suggestions, stay on task and within timeframes and to be involved in all aspects of the process is one of my greatest strengths, however, accepting the communication limitations within a group, tolerating different personalities and hearing other team members' criticisms of my contributions directed to me in a negative way is not. I believe I can improve my ability to accept other team member's opinions without feeling it is personal and knowing it is for the advancement of the project by hearing convincing arguments or propositions, presented in a gentle manner that I ultimately agree is better than the suggestion I made.

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## Reflection

My achievement in this subject was to co-write the script and storyboard, play the main character and produce a prop in the form of a poster. I was involved in the processes of movie making: filming on a mobile device and editing the final product. Rehearsing the written commentary to recite in a recording was a new test for me. Furthermore, the specific guidelines set by our teacher were followed as required. The group I was assigned to worked efficiently, was organised, completed their allocated jobs, showed commitment and interest in our topic. This I believe helped not only my success but that of our team. However, in minor instances, some team members were unable to finish a particular task which meant that my own workload increased, putting pressure on my time and deadlines. Other commitments from my home school impacted on my ability to pace myself. Future effort on my behalf is required in learning the features of filming on mobile devices as well as having proper equipment to do so. The constant changes in the script resulted in a mismatched story board so more attention in this area would be productive. Most importantly, I learnt to consider other team members ideas, review my work critically, to accept their constructive thoughts and collectively we all made valuable contributions.

# Tournament of Minds

2018

## What am I learning?

Tournament of Minds (TOM) is a problem-solving program for multi-aged teams of students who work together to solve a demanding, open-ended challenge over 5 weeks. There is also a spontaneous challenge for teams to solve on Tournament Day. TOM aims to enhance your potential by developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management and the discipline to work collaboratively within a competitive environment. Areas of development by yourself include; cooperative learning and teamwork, experimentation and risk taking, creative and divergent thinking and problem-solving techniques and strategies.

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## Learning goal

In Tournament of Minds, my goal is to create and film a movie trailer based on the popular book 'The True Story of The Three Little Pigs' by Jon Scieszka. I will also collaborate with my team to write a pitch to present to the judges to convince them to convert our trailer into a full-length movie. We intend to present our pitch to the judges in a creative, unique and interesting way that will make our team stand out against the other competitors because of its content. Our recent experience in movie making will greatly assist in producing this short film. My filming techniques can be improved on because whenever I record any footage, it frequently comes out quite unsteady. I would practice at home by recording fascinating, entertaining and unusual events that happen in my daily life.

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## Reflection

Ultimately, the greatest achievement was performing and speaking in front of a live audience consisting of strangers, peers, teachers, family members and examiners in a large auditorium! This was in addition to co-writing the production and making props to support it. Being placed in a group that works well together, who understood what was expected of them and were organised, led to my success within this environment. However, the lack of rehearsal time, an unfamiliar venue, the late arrival of one of the other children, the requirement to write a synopsis in public and without preparation, witnessing the discussion between the teachers and examiners, being examined and having the main character forget the critical component of our text really challenged my success in the final product. The vision of the performance highlighted areas that needed improvement and left me feeling not only the disaster of the chaos but a great sadness because of it. Perhaps because of this scenario and with little time between, our team entered the spontaneous challenge flustered and not in cohesion. I will focus my future effort in accepting that no matter how prepared I think I am, sometimes outside factors will influence the final decision. Surprisingly, the script writing process was far more enjoyable than I gave it credit for.

# **My reflection**

2018

## **How do I learn?**

I learn new skills after being shown or told, usually by watching videos on YouTube or on Google sites, watching and listening to another person, reading instructions, by trial and error, practice and by breaking it down into smaller achievable components. Learning new skills comes about from being interested or curious about a foreign topic or how the skill works. On occasions, I need to learn a new skill or understand a subject matter to accomplish a required task. For example, during our home class, we watched a segment on Tsunami's and now I understand how the cause and effect. I believe that when I can perform the task easily, comfortably or repeat the action or the mystery is solved, then I have learned it well.

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## **What have I learnt about myself during the AG Class program?**

During the AG Class, I was surprised at what I learned about myself. I really enjoyed studying the order of operations in Mathematics and that I understood how they functioned. I was unaware of when writing a movie, a storyboard also needed to be created and preparing the script for Tournament of Minds (TOM) was more fun than I imagined. Perhaps, my greatest challenge, which I also anticipated, would be speaking in front of so many people during TOM because I am very unconfident with public speaking due to my inexperience. Another influencing factor was balancing my home life, school work and AG work in a timely manner. My strength came from realising how well I could work within a team environment, despite it sometimes being frustrating. The answer in every incidence was to be more patient, persevere, set guidelines and arrive organised. I feel that more equipped than my home school classmates, mature and satisfied with my accomplishments and the opportunities given to me. Certainly, at beginning of the year, I was overwhelmed at the journey ahead.

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## **What do I do well?**

New skills to add to my growing list include solving long division equations, how to write a script in detail, how to design a storyboard to illustrate a mental picture of the movie we were making, the components of essay writing and the most complex of all – how to multiply, divide, add and subtract fractions and decimals. The easiest skill I have is writing which has now been enhanced further with more details such as script and essay building and rehearsing lines I wrote for public speaking. What pleasantly surprised me was how much fun it was to crack the order of operations in Mathematics! These two skills show up well when I see the results once I feel comfortable and after I can repeat the action.

## My reflection

2018

### What would I like to be doing in one year's time?

In one year's time, I will almost have completed Year 7 in a new, higher school. By this time, I will hope to have learnt more about agriculture, because for a long time, it has been my dream to own and operate a farming property. During this period, I will be enjoying the companionship of new friends, experiencing awesome excursions and being introduced to new subject areas within the new school.

### What are the things that I need to work on to bridge from what I do well, to what I would like to be doing in one years' time?

By creating an evolving storyboard to illustrate my mental picture or vision of farming life, will help me to clarify all the aspects of making my dream of this life-style become closer. It will motivate me to learn other skills in the long term such as farm management, reading and writing texts on agricultural matters and scripting plans. Oddly enough, mathematics is quite heavily used in farming life. Certainly, units of measure, decimals and percentages are featured regularly. By improving my skills and understanding this subject in depth, will aid my achievements. Associating with like-minded friends who currently reside on such properties will bring the companionship I am seeking.

### Teacher comment

Congratulations Miranda on completing the AG Class in 2018! I really like your strategies for success, in particular - patience. This is indeed an important ingredient that I think we all sometimes miss, including myself. I am impressed that you have been able to recognise its importance at such a young age. Good luck with your agriculture studies and your dream to one day have a working farm. Farming is a tough business and lifestyle and I am certain that the skills you are learning now will help you a great deal when this dream comes true. The strategies that you have identified will help you to achieve success and I would love to come and visit your farm in the future and learn from you!

Erin Griffith - AG Class teacher

### Signatures

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Student signature

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Teacher signature

September 2018



## Appendix 1 - Ancient Greece Essay

2018

### Ancient Greece is the birthplace of the modern world

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Roger Symbol

Ancient Greece was a very civilised group of city-states that shared a common language and religion. The area is surrounded by the Aegean Sea to the East, Ionian Sea to the West and the Mediterranean Sea to the South. Ancient Greece is said to be the birthplace of the modern world because Ancient Greeks made many discoveries that have shaped our world. The classical Ancient Greek period occurred between 800 BCE and 146 BCE. Ancient Greeks developed a new form of government called democracy, a new sporting competition called the Olympics; both of which are still around today. Ancient Greece is the birthplace of some of the greatest minds of all time, such as philosophers, leaders, poets, playwrights and artists. This included mathematician Pythagoras (570 – 495 BCE), who contributed to the development of mathematics and physician Hippocrates (460 – 370 BCE), who is often referred to as 'the father of medicine.' These names are among those whose achievements are echoed throughout history. This evidence proves that Ancient Greece is the birthplace of the modern world.

It has been determined that democracy was born in Ancient Greece. Democracy is a word made of two Greek words, 'demos' meaning people and 'kratos' meaning power or rule. Democracy is a form of government where citizens get a say on laws and how the country is run. It is said that Cleisthenes (570 – 508 BCE) is the 'father of democracy.' He used many other Ancient Greek leaders' ideas and combined them to make a democratic government. He used Peisistratus' (600 – 527 BCE) idea of a jury, which is a group of people who have been chosen to listen to all the facts in a trial in a court of law and to decide a person's innocence. He also used Draco's (650 – 600 BCE) idea of a constitution, which are written laws that tell the leader how to run the country. He combined a couple of other ideas such as the people having representatives that expresses their ideas and giving the population the choice of who they choose to be leader. This form of government is called a democracy and is still being used in modern day. For example, we still have a constitution, juries, representatives in government and the people having a vote for the leader. We can therefore see that democracy was born in Ancient Greece.

## **Appendix 1 - Ancient Greece Essay**

**2018**

Many famous Ancient Greeks made worthwhile contributions to society that have affected our current world. One famous Ancient Greek was a man named Hippocrates. His medical findings are still valid and his method of discovering illness is still being used in modern medicine. Hippocrates was the first Ancient Greek who believed illness is a natural condition, had a rational explanation and was not a punishment from the gods. He was the first ever chest surgeon and he also wrote a book titled 'The Complicated Body'. Hippocrates is the creator of the Hippocratic Oath of 'do no more harm' meaning to not cause any patient more pain than is necessary. The English Oxford Living Dictionaries defined this pledge as "an oath stating the obligations and proper conduct of doctors, formerly taken by those beginning medical practice." Parts of the oath are still used in some medical schools. Hippocrates developed the Hippocrates School of Medicine. Another Ancient Greek who impacted the modern world was a man called Pythagoras. He believed the world was round and that mathematics could explain the physical world. His greatest influence was creating the Pythagoras Theorem, which is still a fundamental mathematical theory being used in our modern day in constructing houses and other buildings. The fact that these discoveries and practices are still used today proves that Ancient Greece is the birthplace of the modern world.

It is known that the Olympics were born in Ancient Greece. Without it, the modern day Olympics would not exist. The Olympics are a special event where athletes from different nations compete in a variety of sports to win either gold, silver or bronze medals. Within the framework, the games are held every four years and the first country to lead the opening ceremony procession of athletes into the arena is Greece. Also, the athletes pledge being an oath to not cheat, was created in Ancient Greece and is still exists. A closing ceremony is held to mark the conclusion of the games, to celebrate the achievements of the athletes and sportsmanship of all participating countries. Anyone can join in the Olympics, even those who are disabled can participate in a separate Paralympics. After a long time of holding the Olympics, a tyrant called Theodosius I (347 - 395 CE) legally abolished the games in 393 or 394 CE because the Olympic games were a religious celebration in honour of Zeus, they held no place in the Christian belief. Then, after a lengthy time of no Olympics, a French historian and educator, named Pierre de Coubertin (1863 – 1937), recreated the Summer Olympics Games in Greece in 1896. He was referred to as 'the father of the modern Olympic games' because he founded the International Olympic Committee in 1894. He was quoted saying "holding an Olympic Games means evoking history." This quote tells us the importance of reliving and the making history. As the Olympic Games outline today is the same as in the Ancient Greek Olympics, it is derived that the Olympic Games were born in Ancient Greece.

## ***Appendix 1 - Ancient Greece Essay***

**2018**

In conclusion, there can be no dispute in saying that Ancient Greece is the birthplace of the modern world. The lifelong achievements and findings of important Ancient Greek minds born in Ancient Greece are still prevalent today. Ideas and practices developed in the specialised areas of medicine, governments, poetry, theatre, architecture, sporting competitions, philosophy and mathematics have continued and been further advanced to form the foundation of existence in the modern world, like no other civilisation.